



Lesson Vocabulary for All Grade Levels

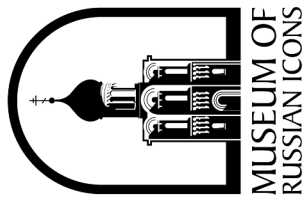
Action Phrase	A sentence that uses an action verb.
Aesthetics	Finding beauty in art.
Albumin	A water soluble protein usually found in egg white.
Alliteration	A sentence or phrase using words beginning with the same consonant sound. Peter likes plump, purple plums.
Apprentice/Assistant	New workers had to work their way up the ladder. They started by preparing the boards, making the gesso, then grinding and mixing colors, then learning to paint—first the basics, then the details. Apprentices learned by watching other, more-skilled craftsmen.
Azurite	Made from the mineral azurite, this pigment can lose color if ground too finely. Originating in Hungary, it became less common after the Turkish invasion.
Bishop	A church official who is in charge of other church leaders or members.
Burnishing	Smoothing by rubbing or polishing. Traditionally a piece of polished stone was used to burnish gold leaf to make it shiny.
Byzantine Empire	Stretched from Greece to Turkey, near the Mediterranean Sea; ruled by Emperor Constantine between AD 330 and 1453.
Carmine	A color made from cochineal beetles. Today, it is found in cosmetics and foods such as yogurt.
Character	Groups of qualities that make a person, group, or thing, different from others; moral excellence.
Christmas	A Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.
Chronological	Arranged according to the order of time.
Chrysography	Writing in gold.
Classify	To assign an attribute to an object; for example, an apple may be classified as a red thing, a fruit, a gift for a teacher, a logo or a healthy food.
Cinnabar	A toxic pigment of the color vermilion (red), cinnabar originated in places with recent volcanic activity/hot springs. It used to be panned in Spanish rivers. Later, it was manufactured and consequently used more often. It is often used to paint clothing in icons.
Collage	Artwork made by gluing together or assembling pieces of paper, photos or objects.
Compassion	The desire to help someone who is hurt, sad, or in trouble.
Constantinople	City in Byzantine Empire named after Constantine.
Courage	Mental or moral strength to face danger, difficulty, or hardship with determination.
Crosier	A staff shaped like a shepherd's crook carried by bishops to show their authority.
Cross-hatching	Pattern created with a series of intersecting parallel lines or brush strokes.
Delicate	Fine in quality or having many small details.

Determination	Staying true to the decision to never give up.
Donor	See Patron.
Egg Tempera	A paint made from pure egg yolk, water, vinegar and ground pigment to form paint. The yolk contains albumin (a gummy substance) and lecithin which acts as a very efficient stabilizer. Egg tempera is a watercolor medium.
Enliveners	Highlights of lighter shades of paint. Shading and highlighting can make painted robes look like real silk.
Generosity	Happily giving a lot to others.
George (Saint)	Saint George is the patron saint of Moscow and is popular subject of icons. He is shown on a horse, trampling a dragon that antagonized a village. The theme of these icons is victory of good over evil or the conversion of Russia to Christianity.
Gesso	A mixture of gypsum, plaster, and glue used to prepare surfaces for painting.
Gilding	Producing a golden surface by applying gold paint, gold leaf or rubbed gold.
Gold	Gold is most often used on icons in the form of gold leaf. A goldsmith was needed to pound the gold into extremely thin sheets of this precious metal.
Halo	A ring or circle of light around the head of a saint in a religious painting.
Hanukkah	An eight-day Jewish holiday beginning on the 25th of Kislev and commemorating the miracle of light lasting through the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem after its defilement by Antiochus of Syria.
Hematite	This stone appears grayish silver but turns red when finely ground. It is an iron oxide often used to paint clothing of the Mother of God. The word hematite comes from the Greek word "blood."
Honesty	Being fair and true, being trustworthy.
Icon	A religious picture or image usually painted on wooden panels. A representation or picture of a sacred or sanctified Christian person, traditionally used and venerated in the Eastern Church. An important symbol.
Iconographer	A person who paints icons.
Iconography	Visual language of Orthodox Church.
Inorganic Pigment	Mineral colors mined or dug from the earth (charcoal, calcium)
Kwanzaa	A 7-day African-American holiday stressing values of family, community, and culture through seven principles.
Lapis Lazuli	Also known as ultramarine, lapis lazuli originated in Persia. It was very expensive and difficult to obtain, and sometimes artists substituted green for blue. Blue is often used to paint the mandorla.
Lead White	This pigment is very toxic and is sometimes mixed with other pigments. Pure lead white was mostly used to make lines on clothing and faces.
Lecithin	A fatty substance found in egg yolk that acts as an emulsifier or binder in tempera paint.
Legend	An old story, told to remember great events and persons from the past.
Mafori	Clothing worn by the Mother of God.
Malachite	A green pigment derived from the mineral of the same name, malachite is found in large amounts in Russia, Africa and Australia. The intensity of the color depends on how finely the mineral is ground. Greens are usually used to paint the cloak of John the Baptist because he

preached about baptism. People believe that just as water gives green plants life, baptism gives people eternal life.

Mandorla	The almond-shaped form that surrounds the figures of Jesus and the Mother of God in an icon.
Martyr	A person who is willing to suffer persecution or die for his/her beliefs.
Master	The head of the workshop, who dealt with patrons, made designs, and oversaw the whole process of production of the artwork, controlled the artistic process, "The Boss."
Metalwork	Decorated silver haloes and collars, sometimes enameled or with gems, added to the figures. Goldsmiths or silversmiths created haloes or rizas.
Minyeya	A calendar, usually arranged from September through August, showing pictures of saints.
Mortar and Pestle	A bowl shaped cavity and a rod shaped tool that are used for grinding.
Museum	A building or place where things of value are kept or displayed.
Nicholas (Saint)	Saint Nicholas is a 4th century bishop and the most popular saint in Russia. His life is associated with many good deeds and miraculous works.
Organic Pigment	Colors derived from vegetable, animal and synthetic sources.
Orpiment	A peach-colored toxic pigment that contains arsenic; also known as arsenic trisulfide. Usually found in places with volcanic activity, orpiment is often used to paint the skin of icon figures. It has a glowing element that seems to illuminate icons from within.
Orthodox Christianity	Religious tradition in which icons originated.
Patron	A man or woman who paid for an icon to be made. Sometimes a picture of the donor can be found in the icon s/he commissioned. (The saint was always depicted wearing classical robes while the donor was shown wearing contemporary clothes.) Donors might be aristocrats, small landowners or merchants, bishops, abbots or monastic communities. Donors specified the size, medium and subject of the icon, worked with the craftsman and looked at his pattern book for ideas. Donors consulted with the painter and master throughout the process.
Pigment	A solid colored material, such as a mineral, that is ground into powder and mixed with a liquid to form paint. In icon painting, red and blue are most common, along with yellow and green.
Pattern Book	A craftsman's personal collection of designs. Drawings included heads and hands in various positions; patterns to stamp on gold haloes; faces of saints; patterns for borders, trees and tiled floors; sheep in different poses; angel's wings; gold vessels and scrolls. The pattern book showed the craftsman's skill to patrons.
Portrait	Picture of a person usually showing the face. A symbolic representation of a person or object.
Quality	One way to describe someone, such as honest, courageous, etc.
Realgar	A toxic pigment, known as arsenic sulfide; often found in areas with volcanic activity/hot springs, often with orpiment nearby.
Riza	A metal covering for an icon that creates a border around the icon figure, focusing attention into the center of the piece. Semiprecious and precious stones were often used to decorate rizas, especially red, purple, blue, amber and emerald.
Russian	Something from the country of Russia.
Saint	One who is declared worthy of special honor by the church.
Secular	Worldly. Separate from the church or religious nature.
Simile	A comparison using "like" or "as."

Sizing	A thin, pasty liquid substance used to cover the front surface of an icon.
Sort	To arrange or list objects based on a common attribute; for example all blue things, all three-sided things; all people with red hair.
Stylus	Pointed metal instrument used to scratch into plaster.
Symbol	Image, phrase or object that stands for or suggests something else or an idea. For example, the Red Cross (Red Crescent in Muslim countries) is an international symbol of health and humanitarian aid. Or, a simpler and more common example is the sign for “man” and “woman” on restroom doors.
Tempera	See Egg Tempera.
Timeline	A chart of historical dates and events in chronological order.
Tradition	A continuing pattern of cultural beliefs or practices done the same way over time.
Undercoat	A coat of paint that is beneath other paint.
Unique	Special or one-of-a-kind.
Value	Something very important to a person or group of people, such as honesty, courage, freedom or learning.
Varnish	The glossy topcoat on an icon.
Venerate	To regard or treat with respect and awe; to pray with an icon.
Verdigris	Often made by hanging copper plates over hot vinegar, verdigris is not a stable pigment. It is susceptible to color changes and does not react well with orpiment or lead white.
Virtue	The quality of doing what is right. Some virtues are persistence, integrity and work ethic.
Wooden	Made of wood.
Yellow Ochre	Made from silica and clay, yellow ochre comes from iron oxides dug from the earth.



Icon List for All Grade Levels

Icon	Year	Link
Minyeia (Calendar)	c. 1995	http://www.museumofrussianicons.org/images/lesson-plans8x10-images/Minyeia_1995.jpg
Saint George and the Dragon	c. 1500	http://www.museumofrussianicons.org/images/lesson-plans8x10-images/Saint_George_1500.jpg
	c. 1750	http://www.museumofrussianicons.org/images/lesson-plans8x10-images/Saint_George_1750.jpg
	c. 1996	http://www.museumofrussianicons.org/images/lesson-plans8x10-images/Saint_George_1996.jpg
Saint Nicholas	c. 1600	http://www.museumofrussianicons.org/images/lesson-plans8x10-images/Saint_Nicholas_1600-2.jpg
	c. 1550	http://www.museumofrussianicons.org/images/lesson-plans8x10-images/Saint_Nicholas_1550.jpg
	c. 1650	http://www.museumofrussianicons.org/images/lesson-plans8x10-images/Saint_Nicholas_1650.jpg
	c. 1650	http://www.museumofrussianicons.org/images/lesson-plans8x10-images/Saint_Nicholas_1650-1.jpg
	c. 1750	http://www.museumofrussianicons.org/images/lesson-plans8x10-images/Saint_Nicholas_1750.jpg
Saint Paraskeva	C. 1820	http://www.museumofrussianicons.org/images/lesson-plans8x10-images/Saint_Nicholas_1820.jpg
	c. 1600	http://www.museumofrussianicons.org/images/lesson-plans8x10-images/Saint_Paraskeva_1600.jpg